

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A beverage container closure **comprising a gas impermeable sealant layer** molded from a melt-processible composition comprising:

- (a) a ~~thermoplastic base polymeric material~~ **polyolefin selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene and a copolymer comprising propylene and ethylene monomeric units;**
and
- (b) layered ~~magnesium-aluminum-silicate~~ **montmorillonite** clay having platelets with a diameter of approximately 1 micron,
whereby said layered montmorillonite clay renders said sealant layer substantially gas impermeable.

Claims 2-5 (cancelled).

Claim 6 (currently amended): A beverage container **closure comprising a gas impermeable** sealant layer molded from a melt-processible composition comprising:

- (a) a thermoplastic base polymeric material **selected from the group consisting of ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer, polyethylene, styrene ethylene butadiene styrene polymer, styrene butadiene styrene polymer, ethylene propylene diene monomer, and metallocene polymers; and**
- (b) layered ~~magnesium-aluminum-silicate~~ **montmorillonite** clay having platelets with a diameter of approximately 1 micron,

whereby said layered montmorillonite clay renders said sealant layer substantially gas impermeable.

Claim 7-9 (cancelled).

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method of decreasing the gas permeability of a beverage container closure **comprising a gas impermeable sealant layer** comprising a ~~thermoplastic material~~ **polyolefin selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene and a copolymer comprising propylene and ethylene monomeric units**, said method comprising introducing layered ~~magnesium aluminum silicate~~ **montmorillonite** clay to said material, **whereby said layered montmorillonite clay renders said sealant layer substantially gas impermeable.**

Claim 11-13 (cancelled).

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method of decreasing the gas permeability of a beverage container **closure comprising a gas impermeable sealant layer** comprising a thermoplastic **base polymeric material selected from the group consisting of ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer, polyethylene, styrene ethylene butadiene styrene polymer, styrene butadiene styrene polymer, ethylene propylene diene monomer, and metallocene polymers**, said method comprising introducing layered ~~magnesium aluminum silicate~~ **montmorillonite** clay to said material, **whereby said layered montmorillonite clay renders said sealant layer substantially gas impermeable.**

Claim 15 (cancelled).